

**Minutes of the
Committee of Practitioners Conference Call Meeting
March 11, 2014**

Call to Order

The meeting of the ESEA Committee of Practitioners was called to order by Becky Guffin at 3:00 p.m. via conference call.

Attendance

Members present on the phone were: Becky Guffin, Joan Pribyl, Chrissy Peterson, Becky Eeten, Lori Bouza, Tina Titze, and Roxanne Lamphere.

Staff persons in attendance were: Ann Larsen, Abby Javurek-Humig, Sandra Kangas, Shannon Malone, Jenifer Palmer, and Laura Johnson Frame. A member of the public was in attendance: Tami Koppang, Business Manager, Lake Preston School District.

State Implementation of Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)

Ann Larsen, Sandra Kangas, Abby Javurek-Humig, and Shannon Malone presented information on the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010.

Beginning July 1, 2014, each State will be implementing the CEP as a school district option. The intent of the CEP is to improve access to free school meals in eligible high poverty districts and schools to eliminate the administrative burden of collecting household applications. Instead of applications, schools use claiming percentages based on the number of identified students. Identified students are primarily certified for free meals through direct certification such as TANF, SNAP, Foster Care, Migrant, Head Start, Homeless, etc.

Districts or schools must have an identified student percentage of at least 40% to participate. The percentage of identified students is multiplied by a factor of 1.6 to arrive at the free claiming percentage. This claiming percentage established for a school in the initial year is guaranteed for a period of four school years. With the implementation of this program, the school district agrees to offer free lunches at district expense to all other students beyond the claiming percentage.

The Committee members were asked for their comments and concerns:

-District Option or State Mandate – The State must offer the program. The districts have the option to move to CEP or continue status quo.

-E-Rate Program - Implementation of the CEP program will not eliminate the requirements pertaining to the E-Rate Program.

-Teacher Loan Forgiveness Program – This program could have an impact on the Teacher Loan Forgiveness Program. Teachers may have a portion of student loans forgiven by teaching in high poverty schools. Depending on how a district would implement the program such as grouping schools under the CEP, the poverty rate could be affected. This will require consideration by SD DOE pertaining to Title I Schoolwide Schools and Provision II schools.

-Title I Funds – Title I funds and the allocation of the funds to the districts are based on US Census data not on Free and Reduced School Lunch. Title I funds will not be impacted.

-Consolidated Application for Federal Title Funds – The poverty rates in the 2014-2015 application will be based on the data used in the 2013-2014 application.

-District Funds to Supply Free Breakfast and Lunch for Students not Claimed Under the CEP – A school district may use General Fund dollars and Impact-Aid Funds to pay for the district paid portion.

-Notification of School District Food Service Personnel – Notification and information was provided to all district food service contacts. Many have been actively asking questions.

-Claiming Percentage – The claiming percentage under the CEP is based on direct certification such as TANF, SNAP, Foster, Migrant, Head Start, Homeless, etc. Some of this data is collected through Infinite Campus. SD DOE has found that some districts are not reporting properly in Infinite Campus. Improper reporting affects other forms of data and the state accountability system. Districts are reminded that Superintendents are signing off on the validity of the data at the end of each school-year.

-Title Private School participation funds – The CEP would have no impact on private school share of Title funds.

-Foster Children – Identifying foster children have been difficult for districts. This could impact the claiming percentage. A better system of notification needs to be discussed. DSS is aware of this and is working on a better communication plan for districts.

-SNAP and TANF as a Certification – Some family populations will not sign-up for SNAP and TANF; this could make it difficult for a district to reach a true claiming percentage.

Under the Community Eligibility Provision, SD DOE must publish a list of districts and student percentages. Districts will be receiving more information soon.

Helpful information may be found at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/governance/Policy-Memos/2012/SP12-2012%20os.pdf>
http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/Governance/Legislation/CNR_2010.htm
<http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/SP19-2014os.pdf> - Title I Part A Guide on CEP

Upcoming Meetings

A conference call meeting will be scheduled for late in April to discuss the ESEA Waiver document and 1003(a) funds. The previously scheduled June date will need to be rescheduled.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.